Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 00296 101343Z ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 FRB-01 OPIC-06 XMB-04 AID-05 IGA-02 /104 W

-----101344Z 124362 /43

R 101300Z FEB 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5606

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBSSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0296

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EGEN, EFIN, SF, US

SUBJECT: FURTHER PRESS SPECULATION ON US INVESTMENT IN SA

REF: JOHANNESBURG 230

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

- 1. FINANCIAL SECTION OF FEBRUARY 10 RAND DAILY MAIL (RDM)
 CARRIED ARTICLE DATELINED NEW YORK BY RICHARD WALKER ENTITLED
 "US GETS TO GRIPS WITH INVESTMENT IN SA."
- 2. SUBJECT ARTICLE MAKES EXTENSIVE REFERENCE TO BUSINESS WEEK TEN-PAGE SPECIAL REPOT ON "AMERICAN BUSINESS'S SOUTHERN AFRICA PLIGHT." RDM SAYS INTER ALIA: "THE BATTLE OVER THE UNITED STATES' SOUTH AFRICAN UNCLASSIFIED

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INVESTMENT POLICY HAS BEGUN IN EARNEST, WITH A DIRECT 'COOL IT' APPEAL TO PRESIDENT CARTER FROM AMERICA'S MOST ACTIVE ANTI-APARTHEID ORGANISATION AND AN EXTENSIVE ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM IN THE NATION'S MAJOR BUSINESS JOURNAL. "...CRUX OF THE SSUE SO FAR IS PRESIDENT CARTER'S SUPPORT FOR 'ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INVESTMENT COMMITMENT, AND THE USE OF ECONOMIC LEVERAGE TO ACHIEVE RACIAL JUSTICE' AND

MR YOUN'S SEEMINGLY CONTRADICTORY LINE, SUGGESTING A POSSIBLE HALT TO TAX CREDITS ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS OF UNITED STATES COMPANIES.
"BUT BOTH MR YOUNG AND PRESIDENT CARTER BELIEVE UNITED STATES BUSINESS HAS A KEY ROLE TO PLAY IN BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE.

"RECALLING HIS OLD CIVIL RIGHTS BATTLES, MR YOUNG SAYS THAT JOHANNESBURG, AS HAPPENED IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, SHOULD BE MADE 'TOO BUSY TO HATE'.

- "...WHAT ALL SIDES ARE NOW WAITING FOR IS A MOVE FROM THE CATER ADMINISTRATION AND THE CALLING OF A TOP-LEVEL MEETING WIT BUSINESS HEADS. THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION SURROUNDING SUCH A MEETING FOR SEVERAL WEEKS."
- 3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE POUCH COPIES OF BUSINESS WEEK ARTICLE TO SOUTH AFRICAN POSTS. JOHNSON

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